

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacturing a blade, comprising:

a) compressing a core and a casing to make a semi-finished product containing said core and said casing, said core and said casing including a metallurgical bond between each other resulting from said compression, said core including a first material that includes at least an aluminum based metal matrix, and said casing including a second material that includes at least an aluminum based metal matrix, and at least one of said first and second materials being made of a metal matrix composite containing reinforcing elements dispersed in said metal matrix;

b) forging the semi-finished product to obtain a blank with a quasi-final shape of the blade; and

c) machining said blank to provide a finished product forming said blade.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 38 for obtaining a blade in which said first and second materials include said metal matrix composite containing said reinforcing elements dispersed in said metal matrix, wherein said reinforcing elements represent a percentage by weight of the composition of said metal matrix composite that varies progressively in said first material and in said second material in a direction from a center of said core towards a periphery of said casing, and wherein said compressing said core and said casing includes forming the core and the casing conjointly by a powder metallurgy technique.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 38, wherein said compressing said core and said casing includes performing, in succession:

a1) using said first material to make a rod extending in a longitudinal direction, said rod serving to form said core placed in a center of the mechanical part;

a2) using said second material to make a sleeve extending in a longitudinal direction, said sleeve serving to form the casing of the mechanical part by surrounding said core;

a3) inserting the rod into the sleeve to form an assembly; and

a4) passing said assembly through an orifice of small section to reduce at least one dimension of said assembly in a direction perpendicular to said longitudinal direction to create a metallurgical bond between said rod and said sleeve.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 40, wherein said passing said assembly through the orifice includes rolling or extrusion.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 38, wherein said forging includes die stamping.

Claims 43-44 (Canceled).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 40, wherein said passing said assembly through the orifice is performed at an elevated temperature.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 45, wherein said passing said assembly through the orifice is performed at a temperature of about 400°C.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): A method of manufacture according to claim 42, wherein said die stamping is performed at a temperature of about 430°C and a pressure of about 100 MPa.